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## OBITUARY.

### CLARENCE KING.

Mr. King died at Phoenix, Arizona, December 24, 1901, in his sixtieth year.

He was born at Newport, Rhode Island, and he received his education at Hartford, Connecticut, and at the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, from which he was graduated in 1862.

In 1863 he crossed the plains to California, where he served for several years on the State Geological Survey, under Prof. Whitney. Among the peaks of the Sierra Nevada measured by him was the highest of all, and to this it was he who gave the name of Mount Whitney.

In 1867 he was made Geologist in Charge of the U. S. Geological Exploration of the Fortieth Parallel, a work covering the topography, geology, and natural history of the country lying along that parallel of latitude from the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains to the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. The reports of this exploration fill seven quarto volumes and two atlases, the first volume, on Systematic Geology, being the work of Mr. King. While engaged upon this publication, Mr. King's attention was drawn to the reported discovery of rich diamond deposits in the West. He visited the spot, and soon detected and exposed a fraudulent scheme of great magnitude.

In 1878, Mr. King suggested the consolidation of the various surveys carried on by the Government; and in 1879 the U. S. Geological Survey was established under his directorship. He resigned the office in 1881.

In recent years he began to show symptoms of the disease which has carried him off, it must be felt, before his time.

Mr. King's life was devoted to scientific pursuits, but his intellectual sympathies were not limited by science. His culture was wide in literature and in art, and his one published book, *Mountain-eeing in the Sierra Nevada*, has a charm of its own.

Mr. King became a Fellow of this Society in 1877, and was elected in the same year to a seat in the Council.